The Too-Violent Panthers

SNCC Split With BPP Is Blamed on 'Extremism' Of Latter as Well as on Rivalry for Power

By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

A SIGNIFICANT split has developed between black militants over whether to continue stirring up riots. This is the real reason, according to intelligence reports, for the breakup of the underground alliance between the extremist Black Panther Party and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

In their back room strategy sessions, SNCC leaders have contended that riots no longer are worthwhile because the "white establishment" is now prepared for them. New tactics should be developed, they argue, to keep the authorities off balance. The Black Panthers, however, want to continue ghetto rebellions, which they believe will lead to anarchy and revolution.

The schism between SNCC and BPP became final in August. Says one classified intelligence report: "On 22 August, SNCC officially severed its relationship with Stokely Carmichael, who achieved his initial notoriety as SNCC national chairman in 1966.

"Other reports concerning SNCC indicate termination of the alliance between that organization and the BPP. H. Rap Brown and James Forman, currently the two most significant SNCC personalities, allegedly sent the BPP their written resignations from the positions which they held in the joint BPP-SNCC hierarchy . . . .

"Carmichael's recent activities on the West Coast indicate that he has sided with the BPP in its ideological dispute with SNCC. Carmichael's estrangement from SNCC has been evident for several months, and it is interesting that his actual break with SNCC occurred at the same time that the SNCC-BPP alliance foundered.

"This split probably occurred because of rivalry for influence in the black community, but there is some indication that SNCC leaders were worried over the extreme militance of the BPP."

A subsequent intelligence report suggested that SNCC leaders, themselves militant radicals, consider the Black Panthers to be "dangerous extremists."

Exit Cutler

LLOYD CUTLER, astute Washington attorney for the motor industry and various drug manufacturers, is about to bow out as executive director of the National Commission on Violence. Reasons: First, Cutler is legitimately busy with his law firm; second, he's in a difficult conflict of interest position regarding televised violence.

Cutler is also attorney for CBS, and the Violence Commission is about to launch—belatedly—an investigation of "shoot-'em-up" programs on television and their relation to crime in the streets. Cutler has been wanting to wind up the work of the Commission, has dragged his heels on the investigation of televised crime.

However, other members of the Commission have insisted on going ahead. So in the near future, Cutler is expected to bow out.

Capital Capsules

REPUBLICAN congressional candidate Will Erwin, who has been lambasting Rep. John Brademas (D-Ind.) for supporting Federal aid programs, should remember the admonition about throwing stones when you live in a glass house. Erwin, wealthy Indiana farmer, has received $109,642 in Federal subsidies in the last five years for not raising corn . . . Dan Weaver, Republican congressional candidate from the Buffalo area, made a lot of claims that newspaper reports regarding his heavy spending were erroneous. Nevertheless, Weaver ignored the New York State election law by failing to file his financial reports on the campaign on time. He had received a letter from New York Attorney General Lewis J. Lefkowitz giving him the deadline for filing . . .

Robert O'Brien, the $20,000-a-year assistant to Rep. Floyd Hicks (D-Wash.), has been hit with two unpublicized lawsuits alleging that he misrepresented himself as an attorney and collected improper legal fees. One of the plaintiffs, David Hunt, has also charged that O'Brien threatened him with a tax investigation. O'Brien allegedly warned that he would use his position in the Congressman's office to get the Internal Revenue Service to investigate Hunt . . . . In Washington, Rep. Hicks is best known as House Armed Services Chairman Mendel Rivers's messenger boy. Hicks actually missed one of his own fund-raising affairs because Rivers asked him to stay on Capitol Hill . . .

Rep. Ed Gurney (R-Fla.), in reply to our column about his law firm's running up a big legal bill with the Florida Turnpike Authority, has claimed that the bill has totaled only $17,577 since his firm was retained last year. Gurney had better double-check the figures; his law firm collected over $36,000 in the first 21 months of 1967-8 . . . . Also typical of Gurney, he implied irrelevantly that we have attacked the House Un-American Activities Committee for investigating the black rabble-rouser Stokely Carmichael. The truth is, as the readers of this column know, that we have been ahead of the committee in exposing Carmichael's un-American activities.

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